

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 20579 101440Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 INSE-00 CA-01 HA-05  
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R 092357Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6914

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 20579

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, MX, US  
SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

REF: MEXICO 19574

1. IN FOLLOW-UP MEETING DEC 8 WITH MANUEL BARTLETT, FONSEC DIRECTOR-IN-CHIEF BILATERAL AFFAIRS, EMBOFF INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF GOM RESPONSE TO EARLIER DISCUSSION (REFTEL) RE JOINT RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SHARING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION. BARTLETT CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF EXCHANGING EXISTING RESEARCH WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF LABOR AND COLEGIO DE MEXICO PROFESSOR DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE BUT SAID THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF INFORMATION SHARING AND RESEARCH IS RELATED TO AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN CONTEXT OF BROADER ISSUE OF RESPECTIVE GOM AND USG POLICY ORIENTATION TOWARD UNDOCUMENTED WORKER PROBLEM.

2. BARTLETT THEN INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF GOM POSITION ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKER PROBLEM AND POSSIBILITY OF PRESENTING ALTERNATIVE TO CARTER PROGRAM WITH SECRETARY ROEL. ACCORDING TO BARTLETT, ROEL INDICATED THAT HE PLANS TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ  
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PORTILLO POSSIBILITY OF A MORE FORMAL AND OFFICIAL GOM RESPONSE OR COUNTERPROPOSAL TO CARTER PROGRAM. GOAL WOULD BE TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR DISCUSSION WITH USG EARLY NEXT YEAR (PRESUMABLY IN JANUARY). BARTLETT SAID THAT FONSEC IN ITS PLANNING FOR COMING YEAR ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO UNDOCUMENTED WORKER QUESTION WHICH, ALONG WITH BELIZE, WILL CONSTITUTE PRIORITY FORIEGN

POLICY ISSUES FOR ACTION. HE SAID THAT GOM RESPONSE ON U.S. INITIATIVE REGARDING INFORMATION SHARING AND EXCHANGE OF RESEARCH WOULD BE CONTAINED IN OVERALL GOM REACTION TO UNDOCUMENTED WORKER QUESTION AND PROPOSED CARTER PROGRAM.

3. BARTLETT EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT REGARDLESS OF GOM'S DESIRE TO HANDLE THIS THORNY BILATERAL PROBLEM WITH SENSITIVITY AND DISCRETION, ITS PUBLIC AND POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS ARE DELICATE AND BEYOND GOM CONTROL. IN SUPPORT OF THIS POINT, HE CITED MEXICAN REACTION TO ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF KU KLUX KLAN WHICH, WHILE IN REALITY NOT IMPORTANT, HAD PRECIPITATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC CONCERN.

4. BARTLETT INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ADVERSE USG REACTION TO MEXICAN ALTERNATIVE OR COUNTERPROPOSAL TO CARTER PROGRAM. EMBOFF DECLINED TO COMMENT DIRECTLY, NOTING THAT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW GOM PRESENTED ITS POSITION AND SUGGESTING THAT SECRETARY ROEL COULD MORE APPROPRIATELY DISCUSS THIS POINT WITH AMBASSADOR LUCEY.

5. IN CONCLUSION BARTLETT REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE FONSEC ATTACHES TO UNDOCUMENTED WORKER ISSUE AND STATED HIS BELIEF THAT GOM SOON AFTER THE NEW YEAR WOULD CONVOKE INTER-SECRETARIAL EFFORT TO PREPARE SOME KIND OF RESPONSE OR COUNTERPROPOSAL TO CARTER PROGRAM. COMMENT: IN OUR EX-CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIENCE MEXICAN TARGET DATES HAVE A WAY OF SLIPPING ON MANY ISSUES, OF WHICH UNDOCUMENTEDS LIKELY TO BE ONE. END COMMENT. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

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